

HASSAN JEANNE M
80 KINGSTON 294

10/24/81 133418 PRINTER: LI

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-07 TRSE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 COM-02 /087 W
-----085885 160543Z /20

R 141340Z JAN 80

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 783

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0294

E.O.12065: GDS 1/11/86 (HAVERKAMP ROY T) OR-M

TAGS: PINS, JM PROG

SUBJECT: JLP PLANS ON ELECTIONS SHERRER SEAGA RELATIONS

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THE OPPOSITION IS ACTING ON THE ASSUMPTION THE GOVERNMENT WILL CALL AN ELECTION IN MID YEAR 1980, AFTER VOTER ENUMERATION IS COMPLETED. ALTHOUGH NOT AN IDEAL TIME FOR THE OPPOSITIONS POINT OF VIEW, IT IS NOT THE WORST TIME EITHER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY 23

DATE

25 JUN 1982

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

TEND SUMMARY.

3.1

THE JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT WILL CALL AN ELECTION SOME TIME IN THE MIDDLE OF 1980 JUNE OF JULY THIS JUDGEMENT IS BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) ACTIVITIES AND ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE ECONOMY OF JAMAICA WILL BE IN WORSE STRAIGHTS AFTER IMF DRAWDOWNS END IN 1981 THAT IT IS NOW

4. BEFORE AN ELECTION CAN BE CALLED TWO MORE STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN UNDER THE ELECTROAL REFORM LAW: PREPARATION OF A NEW VOTERS LIST AND NAMING OF

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OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF COTING IN ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

THE JLP HAS PROPOSED A THREE DAY WEEKEND HOLIDAY ON A DATE TO BE AGREED IN ORDER TO REGISTER VOTERS AND PREPARE THE LIST.

THE JLP CANNOT ACCEPT ANY OF THE INCUMBENT OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF VOTING AND WANTS NEW ONES NOMINATED.

5. MID 1980 IS A GOOD TIME FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW. BY THEN THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE HAD TO DO THE "DIRTY WORK" IE. THERE WILL HAVE TO BE LAY OFFS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, AND OTHER ECONOMIC RETRANCHMENTS THAT WOULD MAKE ANY GOVERNMENTS VERY UNPOPULAR.

6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT

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7. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD NO EVIDENCE FROM THE PNE
SIDE [] ABOUT THE ELECTIONS.
BUT HIS ANALYSIS IS NOT UNREASONABLE.

b(1)ED

b(1)ED

BASIVALLY SHEARER IS A GOOD UNION LEADER AND WANTS TO
KEEP HIS OPTIONS OPEN ALL ROUND SO HE CAM MAKE THE BEST
DEAL FOR HIS UNION MEMBERS.

b(1)ED

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